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2 TUESDAY JULY 29, 1975

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

TUESDAY JULY 29, 1975 3

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Christian Democrat Exiles Seek Front to Oppose Chilean Junta

Left-wing Christian Democratic Party exiles from Chile recently met in Venezuela with moderate leaders of former president Allende's coalition and called for the creation of a broad front to oppose the military government in Santiago. The meeting is sure to intensify the government's distrust of civilian politicians.

The Christian Democrats—Bernardo Leighton, René Fuentetaja, and Gabriel Valdés—were acting on their own, and their participation [redacted] embar-

assed the leadership in Santiago.

The Christian Democratic Party, like other political groups, is "in recess" and on poor terms with the government. Leighton and Fuentetaja were expelled from the country for their outspoken criticism of the regime.

The Christian Democratic Party's continued legal existence has been in question ever since former president Frei publicly criticized the junta's economic policies last month. Frei's statements evoked a strong reaction from the junta and raised rumors that the government would exile him.

President Pinochet's right-wing advisers reportedly have urged him to outlaw the remaining parties. One of the right-wingers, Arturo Puga, suggested last week that Leighton and Fuentetaja are traitors and should be deprived of their citizenship.

The junta can be expected to seize whatever slim evidence it can to substantiate charges of an anti-government conspiracy and justify tougher action against its critics. (S NFD)

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4 TUESDAY JULY 29, 1975

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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